tion, development works amounting to Rs. 908 lakhs are in various stages of progress in this stretch.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Expansion of Rubber Research Institute at Kottayam.

1431. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for expansion of Rubber Research Institute at Kottayam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the achievements of this Institute during the last five year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No separate proposal for expansion of the Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) at Kottayam has been received by the Government except the general proposals of Rubber Board for inclusion in the 8th Plan which includes expansion of the activities of the RRII also.

(b) The main proposals for expansion of the RRII during the 8th Plan include the following:-

i) Expansion of experimetal stations:

-Traditional area
-Non-traditional area

ii) Strengthening of existing facilities:

-North-East Research Complex
-Existing Regional Stations.

iii) Strengthening of Germplasm Centre.

iv) Strengthening of Biotechnology Research and Tissue Culture.

v) Strengthening of Technical and Supporting Services for Research.

vi) Strengthening of Agricultural Economics Division.

vii) Strengthening of Soils and Agricultural Chemistry.

viii) Establishment of a Division of on farm evaluation and demonstration.

ix) Establishment of a Division of Product Improvement.

(c) The achievements of the RRII during the last five years include the following:-

i) Evolved and Commercialised many high yielding clones of rubber.

ii) A Protocol for production of tissue culture plants developed and plants thus derived were field planted.

iii) Rationalised the policy for planting material recommendation.

iv) Recommendations formulated for control of all diseases and pests for rubber.

v) Region-wise package of practices including fertilizer schedule issued.

vi) Recommendations for exploitation systems clone-wise and region-wise issued based on long-term experiments.

vii) Pupularised discriminatory fertilizer recommendations system with support of regional and mobile laboratories.

viii) Fundamental studies on productivity were given due emphasis and many useful information obtained.

ix) Introduced Brazilian Cermplasm for evaluation and cataloguing and for incorporation in breeding programme.

x) Economics of intercropping and rainguarding, etc. was extensively studied.

xi) Agrotechnology for growing rubber successfully in non-traditional areas presenting different environmental constrains was developed.

xii) Cheaper coagulants for rubber latex have been introduced.

xiii) Production methods for epoxidised natural rubber have been standardised.

xiv) Blends of NR and EVA have been developed.

Joint Ventures under Indo-Swiss Agreement.

1432. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the various joint ventures proposed to be established by the Government under Indo-Swiss agreement during the coming year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): There is no separate agreement with Switzerland for establishment of joint ventures.

Motor Accident Claims Tribunals in Delhi

1433. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether some of the motor accident claims Tribunals in Delhi are not having judges;

(d) if so, since when and the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of cases pending the Tribunals, Tribunal-wise;

(d) since when these cases pending and the steps taken for their expeditious disposal; and

(e) the number of cases finalised during 1991 so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Three our of six Motor Accident Claims Tribunals in Delhi are not having judges since they were relieved of their duties on promotion to Delhi Higher Judicial Service in the first week of June, 1991. The Delhi Administration have taken up the matter with the High Court regarding the filling up of these vacant posts. In the meantime the judges of the other three courts have been entrusted with the responsibilities to look after the work of vacant tribunals.